



October 27, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

We are writing today to urge the Senate to pass a strong FAA Reauthorization bill that supports our aviation system, its private and public sector workers, and the millions of Americans who rely on safe and efficient air travel.

As you know, the FAA has been operating on a series of short-term funding extensions for the last two years. This delay has led to the neglect of critical safety and modernization initiatives, infrastructure investments, and worker rights issues for too long. We are urging you to intervene and ensure this legislation is completed this year.

As a vital component of our national transportation network, the aviation system is critical to our economy. It generates nearly \$900 billion in economic activity annually and represents 9 percent of our GDP. The FAA forecasts that by 2021 passenger traffic will increase 49 percent to 1.16 billion passengers annually. In addition, the aviation system directly and indirectly employs millions of workers at a time when the unemployment rate is still rising and job security across the country is perilous at best.

The FAA must be well-positioned to sustain this system and handle its anticipated growth. A strong FAA reauthorization bill brings the promise of major reforms: increased investment in our airports and infrastructure; modernization of the air traffic control system; implementation of vital safety reforms; a fairer system of collective bargaining at the FAA; protection of workers' rights; and a reaffirmation of federal policy on the foreign control of U.S. air carriers.

As our nation struggles through one of the most severe recessions in history, we cannot afford additional delays in completing this legislation. Americans need jobs-creating initiatives like the investment provisions embodied in this bill. While the FAA bill will not solve all of the aviation industry's problems, it will set the stage for this critical segment of our economy to grow and for our workers to thrive.

For these reasons, we join together to ask for your assistance in bringing an FAA bill to the floor so that a final bill can be reconciled and sent to the President's desk this year.

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

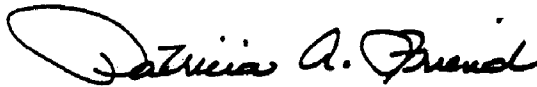
888 16th Street, NW • Suite 650 • Washington, DC 20006 • tel: 202.628.9262 • fax: 202.628.0391 • www.ttd.org
Edward Wytkind, President • Patricia Friend, Secretary-Treasurer



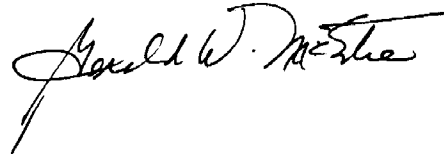
The Honorable Harry Reid
October 27, 2009
Page 2

Thank you for considering our views regarding this important transportation legislation.

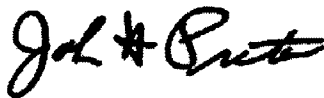
Sincerely,



Patricia Friend, International President
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA



Gerald McEntee, President
American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees



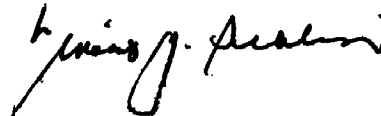
John Prater, President
Air Line Pilots Association



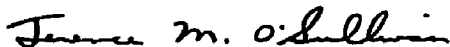
Robert Roach, General Vice President
International Association of Machinists and
Aerospace Workers



Greg Junemann, President
International Federation of Professional and
Technical Engineers



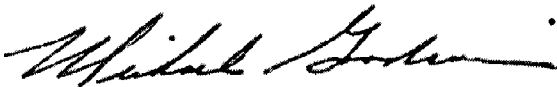
Vincent Giblin, General President
International Union of Operating Engineers



Terence O'Sullivan, President
Laborers' International Union of North
America



Paul Rinaldi, President
National Air Traffic Controllers Association



Michael Goodwin, President
Office and Professional Employees
International Union

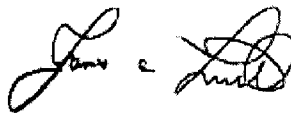


Tom Brantley, President
Professional Aviation Safety Specialist

The Honorable Harry Reid
October 27, 2009
Page 3

A stylized, cursive signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Edward Wytkind, President
Transportation Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

A cursive signature in black ink, featuring a large initial 'J' followed by a smaller 'L' and a final flourish.

James Little, President
Transport Workers Union of America

cc: The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan